

CLASSIFY AS APPROPRIATE

# RECOMMENDATION FOR HONOR OR MERIT AWARD (See HR 20-37)

(Submit eight copies with: description of performance or service warranting award; biographic profile; and unclassified citation)

1. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.			2. NAME OF PERSON RECOMMENDED (Last, First, Middle)  FBIS/Wire Services Staff			3. POSITION TITLE		
4. GRADE	5. YOB	6. SD RF	7. OFFICE OF ASSIGNMENT FBIS	8. EXTENSION 2942	9. RECOMMENDED AWARD Meritorious Unit Citation - FBIS/Wire Services Staff			
10. INCLUSIVE DATES FOR WHICH RECOMMENDED 1 October 1984 - 30 September 1985					11. IF RETIRING, DATE OF RETIREMENT		12. POSTHUMOUS YES NO	
13. HOME ADDRESS (include ZIP CODE)				14. NAME OF SPOUSE		15. HOME PHONE		

Have any other persons received or been recommended for an award for this service or act?  
☐ yes (If yes, attach list of full names and awards.)  
☐ no

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TITLE FBIS		DATE 18 Oct. '85
HEAD OF RF CAREER SERVICE (Career service of nominee)		DATE 25 OCT 1985
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CAREER SERVICE	Deputy Director for Science and Technology	DATE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OPERATING COMPONENT	TITLE AND SIGNATURE	DATE

## REPORT OF HONOR AND MERIT AWARDS BOARD

The Honor and Merit Awards Board having considered the foregoing recommendation on \_\_\_\_\_:

- ☐ recommends approval
- ☐ does not recommend approval
- ☐ recommends award of

REMARKS

APPROVED    DATE	SIGNATURE
	TYPED NAME OF CHAIRMAN, HONOR AND MERIT AWARDS BOARD
	SIGNATURE
	TYPED NAME OF RECORDER

CLASSIFY AS APPROPRIATE

FBIS-1461/85  
25 OCT 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

FROM:

Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Meritorious Unit Citation - FBIS  
Wire Services Staff

1. I recommend that the FBIS Wire Services Staff be awarded a Meritorious Unit Citation for sustained superior performance over the past year.

2. The Wire Service is FBIS' most visible point of contact with the Intelligence Community and other high-level government and military offices. It serves these consumers in three primary ways. As a 24-hour operations center, it utilizes the capabilities of the 15 FBIS overseas bureaus to alert Community watch offices and other consumers to crises or other events worldwide requiring their urgent attention; it serves as the primary source for access by these consumers to time-sensitive information monitored from foreign public media; and it draws on FBIS foreign and domestic assets to respond to ad hoc and often urgent requirements levied by its consumers.

3. The unusual number of significant events over the past 12 months, coupled with chronic staffing shortages, severely tested the abilities and fortitude of the Wire Staff, many of whom began their tour with relatively little experience. They responded in exemplary fashion, coalescing into a smoothly functioning team of skilled and dedicated professionals. Their efforts in all three areas of responsibility have brought frequent and often effusive praise and expressions of appreciation from consumers at all levels.

4. Typical of the various major events covered by the Wire in this period were the terrorist hijackings of TWA flight 847 in June of this year and the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airline in December 1984. Both events lasted several days and drew exhaustive coverage from FBIS Middle East bureaus. In the latter case, Wire editors directed coverage and provided a steady flow of primary source reportage to Community watch offices and a State Department working group, frequently beating Western press agency reporting by one to two hours. Both the working group and the White House Situation Room officially expressed appreciation, noting the paucity of information available from other sources. The TWA hijacking covered a period of more than

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Meritorious Unit Citation - FBIS Wire Services Staff

two weeks, and was followed by a short-fused weekend request from State INR for a roundup of worldwide official reaction to the hijacking to be included in briefing books for the Vice President and Secretary of State. The reaction report and another in response to a request from INR a week later for an update for Secretary Shultz were coordinated, prepared and filed by the Wire in a matter of hours. In response, Morton Abramowitz, Director of INR, expressed his "appreciation for a professional job well done." In a personal letter to the Director, FBIS, Ambassador Abramowitz noted that "time constraints notwithstanding, your Wire Service personnel came through with first-class products that were accurate, timely and comprehensive."

5. The Wire Service provided significant input to the Community in coverage of numerous similar events during the year. These included the assassination of Indian Prime Minister Gandhi, during which the Wire coordinated the efforts of the FBIS Bangkok Bureau to provide last-minute updates for use by the DCI at a White House briefing; the extended Chernenko "death watch," in which timely Wire media behavior reports helped to scotch recurring unsubstantiated reports of the Soviet leader's demise; and the inauguration of "Radio Marti," during which Cuban media behavior reports and other reportage coordinated and filed by the Wire were closely followed by consumers. According to NIO Hal Ford, FBIS reportage carried by the Wire constituted a significant portion of available intelligence on Cuban reaction to the radio.

6. One of the Wire Services' most valuable contributions to the Intelligence Community in the past year has been its ability to coordinate the considerable FBIS resources in Headquarters and the field to provide timely responses to urgent high-level consumer requirements. Typical of these efforts were two requests from the White House Situation Room, one for the transcript of a BBC television program (not on regular FBIS coverage) purported to include a classified U.S. document and the second for the translation of a PRAVDA article criticizing the President's visit to Bitburg cemetery. The latter request was relayed from "Air Force 1" and asked that the item be on hand in time for the plane's arrival in the area. The Wire's successful response to both requirements drew praise from the White House Situation Room. A recent letter to the Director, FBIS, from Douglas P. Mulholland, Special Assistant for National Security to the Secretary of the Treasury, expresses appreciation for "outstanding support." The reference is to Wire-coordinated responses to two urgent weekend requests for field reports, one from Peru and one from Japan.

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Meritorious Unit Citation - FBIS Wire  
Services Staff

7. These are but a few of the many almost daily challenges to which the men and women of Wire Services Staff have responded with customary initiative and dedication. Their efforts have contributed significantly to the activities of a wide range of offices involved in shaping and implementing U.S. foreign policy. They have most certainly enhanced the reputation of FBIS and the Directorate of Science and Technology. In recognition of this sustained superior performance by the Wire Services Staff, I recommend the awarding of a Meritorious Unit Citation.



APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Director for Science and Technology

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Page Denied**

CITATION

A Meritorious Unit Citation is awarded to the FBIS Wire Services Staff for sustained superior performance throughout the period October 1984 - September 1985.

As the most visible FBIS component, the Wire Staff serves the Intelligence Community and other high-level Government and military offices as a primary source for time-sensitive information from foreign public media. Over the past year it has handled an extraordinary number of significant events with exceptional skill and dedication, coordinating the efforts of the FBIS overseas bureaus and Headquarters resources to provide alerts to Community watch offices and to respond to urgent requests, while continuing to fulfill the everyday requirements of all its consumers. The initiative and professionalism displayed by the Wire Staff in dealing with major events such as hijackings and assassinations and in reporting world reaction to U.S. foreign policy decisions have brought frequent and effusive praise from consumers at all levels.

The efforts of the Wire Service over the past year have contributed significantly to the activities of a wide range of offices involved in shaping and implementing U.S. foreign policy and most certainly have enhanced the reputation of FBIS within the Intelligence Community.

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DDS&T/FBI  (18Oct85)

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